



Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Jan. 23, 2020

Two Drivers Found Guilty for Fatal Torrance Crash

A jury has found two men guilty of killing another motorist after both allegedly ran a red light in Torrance three years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Darryl Leander Hicks Jr., 31, of Los Angeles and Tung Ming, 24, of Rancho Palos Verdes both were found guilty yesterday of one felony count each of vehicular manslaughter and reckless driving on a highway causing injuries and death.

Deputy District Attorney Ryan Gould said Hicks also was found guilty of one felony count each of hit-and-run driving resulting in death or serious injury to another person and hit-and-run driving resulting in injury to another person.

The jury also found true allegations that Hicks fled the scene.

Sentencing is scheduled on February 26 in Department F of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

On March 7, 2017, Hicks crashed into Ming and then fled the scene near Crenshaw Boulevard and Silver Spur Road. Ming then began chasing Hicks and both defendants ran a red light near Crenshaw Boulevard and Crest Road, the prosecutor said.

Both defendants ended up colliding with a van, killing Jesse E. Esphorst, 16, and seriously injuring the driver, Esphorst's father, the prosecutor added. Hicks then also fled the scene of the fatal crash.

Hicks faces 12 years in state prison and Ming faces six years in prison.

Case YA095989 was investigated by the Torrance Police Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.